

high-pressure hydraulics lines. And we live constantly within just a few feet of the most unforgiving, deadly, crushing environment, right on the other side of our hull—the deep sea. It's of paramount importance that we keep it on the other side of that hull."

A naval submarine will operate at sea for about 50 to 100 days before coming back to port for a couple of months, during which time it undergoes a regimen of critical maintenance and a crew rotation. The Kentucky has two crews, a Blue Team and a Gold Team. Smith commands both.

While the Kentucky is under way, the daily routine is one of training, planning and maintenance. Breakfast begins at 05:00 (5 a.m.) and is over by 06:30, at which time the crew receives briefings before commencing drills at 08:00. Drills consist of simulations of various different situations that could be encountered aboard the ship, such as fires, floodings, and casualties.

On some days, the crew performs strategic exercises, in which the crew practices the tasks they could be asked to perform while on a mission—everything from processing messages to walking through a strategic launch. This part of the day is usually done by 15:00 (3 p.m.), followed by a few hours of planning, training, and debriefing before dinner at 17:00 hours. There's usually a movie for the crew around 20:00, and then it's lights out.

Running parallel to that daily routine, the ship maintains a regular watch schedule, in which at any given time, one-third of the crew is manning a watch station on their part of the ship. The watch shifts run for six hours in an 18-hour rotation.

In port, the routine centers around maintenance, with anywhere from 50 to 150 separate scheduled maintenance items every time the ship comes in.

"The scheduled maintenance on a car is a good comparison," Smith says. "Think of all of the things that you have to check on your car every 5,000 miles. Well, a submarine is a lot bigger and a lot more complex than a car. And a typical car owner might keep their car for five or six years, while a submarine has to last for 40. So we have to ensure that the ship is in good shape for another whole generation of submariners."

Smith says he works conscientiously to instill a sense of Kentucky pride in his crew. One of the first things he did after taking command was to implement "Go Big Blue!" as the ship's rallying cry. He ends every shipboard announcement over the loudspeaker with that call, and the crew echoes it back.

"I think you'll find it's true, on any of the ships named after a state, that the commanders will try to get the whole state-pride thing going among the crew," Smith says. "I have just a little extra fire in my belly, being a native of Kentucky and a graduate of UK. My crew definitely knows that we're representing a great state."

Smith says the education he received at UK has helped to prepare him for his role in the Navy in ways he couldn't even have imagined when he was a student some 20 years ago.

"The experience that I had in college—not just in physics, but the whole multidisciplinary aspect of what college is—has served me very well throughout my career," he says. "I use the physics every day, and the engineering and math. But there's also philosophy—particularly the connection between philosophy and anthropology: How do we live in a multinational society? There's psychology, which helps me to be able to interpret the reactions of my crew in an objectively harsh environment. I use business management and financial accounting. Even the Russian I studied has served me well.

There was not a single class that I took at UK that I have not gone back and leveraged in my career at some point."

A lifelong Wildcat fan, Smith says he was thrilled to see the Cats bring home their eighth NCAA Championship this year. He offers his own, admittedly biased, take on bracketology:

"I tell my fellow officers that when you pick your bracket for the NCAA tournament, you need to realize that there is a Center of Awesomeness in the Universe, which is Rupp Arena, and the farther any team is based from there, the less of a chance they are going to have of making it to the Final Four."

Smith is also father to four children. In his spare time, he enjoys reading broadly on diverse topics, including philosophy, poetry, and music. He is an avid video gamer, who welcomes challenges from his crew in just about any game imaginable.

"I try to remain as interdisciplinary as possible," he says.

TRIBUTE TO GLENN "BUDDY" WESTBROOK

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Glenn "Buddy" Westbrook of London, Kentucky, and his service to both this nation and the State of Kentucky, specifically Laurel County and the surrounding region. Passionate about development of the London community, Mr. Westbrook worked to build the Laurel County economy and strengthen the tourism industry in southeastern Kentucky.

Born in 1930 to J. Hamp and Flo Pearl Westbrook, Buddy Westbrook was raised in London, Kentucky. His nickname, Buddy, stuck when his older sister, Madge, called him Buddy because she could not say Glenn. He began working at an early age when he helped his father separate type for the printing shop the family owned. Buddy enjoyed working because it made him feel grown up. However, like all boys, he enjoyed spending time outdoors, especially at Kidds Pond, and he also had a knack for getting into mischief, such as climbing telephone poles.

Buddy graduated from high school in London but during his sophomore year attended classes at Berea College to study chemistry. After high school he attended Sue Bennett College and worked in his father's gas and LP appliance store. Throughout his life, he was taught that civic duty and serving others was an important part of being a member of a community. In 1950, Buddy joined the U.S. Army and served in Germany during the Korean War.

When he returned to London, Buddy took over his family store. As an active member of the Jaycees, an organization that promotes community development, he was able to attend a conference in Ashland where he met his wife, Jeanne. The couple had eight children. In 1970, Governor Wendell Ford named Buddy to the Kentucky Institute for Children.

In 1975, Buddy was offered a position with the Cumberland Valley Area Development District. His service

through this post was especially of benefit to the tourism industry in the region. Not only did Buddy and members of the commission share information about the region at travel shows, but he also organized the first Tourism Industry Development Symposium held in Lexington.

After the death of his wife, Jeanne, and son, Don, in 1983 and 1984, respectively, Buddy understandably endured some difficult times. However, a friend, Susan Mitchell, who later became his wife, helped him through this dark period. After retiring in 1993, Buddy organized Vision 2000 for London, Kentucky, a plan to define goals for the city which ultimately came to fruition during the new millennium.

Buddy Westbrook is truly an outstanding citizen of the London, Kentucky, community. Passionate about the development of Laurel County and the surrounding region, his lifetime commitment to economic and tourism development have proved to be invaluable to southeastern Kentucky. Buddy's dedication to his community is exemplary, and I am privileged today to recognize his many contributions to Kentucky. I ask my colleagues in the U.S. Senate to join me in celebrating Mr. Glenn "Buddy" Westbrook. A recent article published in the Sentinel-Echo, a Laurel County-area publication, highlighted his accomplishments. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that said article appear in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Sentinel-Echo, May 2, 2012]

WESTBROOK: "THIS IS MOST EXCITING TIME IN HISTORY"

(By Tara Kaprowy)

Upon opening the door for his Living Treasures interview, 81-year-old Glenn "Buddy" Westbrook announces he just has a couple of hours to chat; he's going four-wheeling on the Salt River with a friend and, with the spring morning warm and clear, time's, as they say, a-wastin'.

But upon stepping into his kitchen, it's clear Westbrook's interest hasn't completely been kidnapped by the prospect of ATVing. He's laid out his dining room table with croissants, marmalade and several types of tea in anticipation of the impending discussion—and, in his characteristic way, to make things lovely and enjoyable.

Westbrook was born June 14, 1930, to J. Hamp and Flo Pearl (Eversole) Westbrook. His mother was born in London and her maternal grandfather, J.N. Robinson, was the first photographer and jeweler in town. "My mother's father was Roscoe Eversole, and he was the cashier of the First National Bank in London and was also mayor when they first started putting in sidewalks and culverts. Before that, it was boardwalks. And so I grew up with examples of leadership, a love of London and Laurel County, and an appreciation of the people."

His father came from the cotton farms of Georgia and, together, he and Flo Pearl made a cozy home with their young family in an apartment above First National Bank. Westbrook's sister Madge was two years his elder and, unable to pronounce the name "Glenn," he soon acquired the nickname

"Buddy," a moniker by which he is still known.

Hamp worked at the Corbin Times and later owned a printing shop in Corbin. From a young age, Westbrook helped his father, learning "to separate cold type in a California box," he said.

"It wasn't done by a-b-c-d-e-f-g," he said. "It was by the most-used letters, 'e' was in the center in the bigger box. It made me feel grown up."

After Madge and Westbrook started attending school at Sue Bennett grade school, Flo Pearl went to work at First National Bank, a job she kept for the next 50 years.

With the family settling in a home his father built on East Fifth Street, Westbrook remembers a happy childhood. "This was a wonderful place to grow up," he said. "If you made any mistakes while you were in town, like climbing telephone poles or things like that, your parents knew by the time you got home. You got a lecture and often your backside got warmed."

London was a friendly place to live, and "people would come to town on Saturdays from farms, park their cars, park their horses and wagons behind the jail on Broad Street, and they'd come up on Main Street where all the businesses were located," he said. "It was a time when doctors cared about you. They knew you, they loved you, and they wanted to heal you."

Westbrook also described strict but caring teachers. "We learned about patriotism and civic things," he said. "We started learning at an early age that we were part of a whole."

Evenings at the Westbrook house included the family "watching the radio" to listen to the evening news. Flo Pearl would read to her children from English and American authors and classic mythology. On warm summer afternoons, Westbrook said he and his friends would head to a small lake south of London close to the entrance of Levi Jackson Wilderness Road State Park.

"It was Kidds Pond," he said. "They had dressing rooms and they charged you a quarter to swim all day and sometimes it was 10 cents. Of course, back then you could get a Coke for a nickel and hamburgers were a nickel."

When he was looking for something to do, Westbrook would head to his grandmother's farm next to where E.C. Porter's IGA currently stands, where he learned how to "milk a cow and how to churn and make butter."

On December 7, 1941, Westbrook remembers "playing in the front yard on his bicycle" when his parents told him President Roosevelt had announced the Japanese had attacked Pearl Harbor. From that moment on, Westbrook's childhood changed. "We followed everything about the war," he said. "I saw the National Guard troops mount up over where the fire department is now on Dixie Street. They had horses and stables and they had a drill hall filled with sand with a roof over it and they would take the horses in there and do their formations in there. I remember seeing the troops mount up in the armory after World War II started and march up Main Street, go down to the depot and get on a train to go off to war."

By the time he reached high school, Westbrook had decided he would become a "brilliant chemist for Dupont" and even went to Berea College in his sophomore year to study chemistry. He returned to London the following year to graduate. "That was a wonderful experience," he said. "London had a good basketball team, good cheerleaders and good teachers who cared."

Following graduation, Westbrook enrolled in Sue Bennett College. Later, he worked at the appliance and LP gas store with his fa-

ther. Westbrook said he was lucky to learn from his father "how to build a business, care for customers, find what they needed, and have it for them."

But Westbrook was lucky—jobs were scarce and veterans returning from WWII wanted to be able to live in Laurel County. That desire was granted when in 1949, London was chosen to be Kentucky's first "Test City," an experiment in community development sponsored by the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce. Over the next 10 years, the effort attracted 2,500 new jobs to the area.

Part of the effort involved "a big clean-up, paint-up, fix-up" campaign in preparation for visits from industries, Westbrook said. "Gradually the ramshackle buildings and sheds were torn down," he said. "There was no law or anything, there was just pride. They wanted it to be part of helping it succeed. Weeded lots were mowed, progress reports were given every week in the newspaper."

The experience profoundly affected Westbrook, who was greatly inspired by the community leaders who were spurring the effort. "The leadership I saw, the people I respected, the veterans who came back from World War II and other leaders, they got together and I saw them cooperating and really dreaming, saying we could do this and let's try this to create jobs. Even though there would be the potential embarrassment of trying something and it not working, at least you felt like you should try it."

Westbrook joined the Jaycees, the young men's organization active in community development.

In 1950, Westbrook was drafted in the U.S. Army during "the Korean Police Action," but rather than be sent to Asia, was shipped to Germany where he taught soldiers about weapon surveillance and fire direction control in his artillery unit. He was also given the task of purchasing German wines for the military base.

Westbrook took full advantage of his time in Europe and sunk happily in its cultures. He learned to ski in the Alps, took photography lessons from "an old German," learned French, German, and Italian, ate pizza and weinerschnitzel for the first time, and spent his time off travelling. "I spent a week in Paris and got to go to every museum," he said. "It was fun to be discovering these things. I got to see the Louvre. When I went in there, on the first landing, there was the Winged Victory of Samothrace and I said, Wow! They've got it here."

When he was discharged in 1953, Westbrook returned to London, shed his dreams of becoming a chemist, and took over the family business. He quickly re-joined the Jaycees and upon his first annual meeting in Ashland, met the woman who was to become his first wife. "The only single one was Jeanne Watts," he said. "A year and a half later, we were married."

They wed in Ashland and Westbrook returned to London with his bride. "She was intelligent, she had her own way of doing things, she was thoughtful and caring, but she was also very independent," he said of Jeanne.

Together they had eight children—Joe, Amy, Don, Robert, David, Mary, Susan, and Leann. Jeanne kept the books and Buddy continued working at his businesses and diving into community issues. In 1970, he was appointed by Gov. Wendell Ford and later Gov. Julian Carroll to the Kentucky Commission for Children, which was renamed the Kentucky Institute for Children, and attended the president's 1970 White House Conference on Children and Youth.

After decades in the gas business, Westbrook decided to go into the wholesale kitchen-design business, one that later ex-

panded into institutional food service for schools, hospitals and resorts.

With the majority of his business in eastern Kentucky, Westbrook soon discovered it was cheaper to get his instrument pilot's license and fly his men to Pikeville than it was to drive, so he bought a six-passenger Cessna and began his career in the air, flying the equivalent of eight times around the world.

"On the weekend, I could take my family and we'd leave here at noon and be on the beach in Florida in five hours," he remembered.

Spending time with his family was paramount to Westbrook, though he admits he was a "strict disciplinarian."

"I believe discipline is proof that you care about values that are important in life," he said. "When my daughter Leann was born with Down syndrome, she thrived because of the help of her brothers and sisters. I stopped playing golf and our family did things together and we traveled as a family. We tried to teach them the need for unconditional love. They went to church and learned to pray. They still go to church."

In 1975, still with a passion for leadership, Westbrook was asked to work for the Cumberland Valley Area Development District. Later, he worked to develop a stronger tourism industry in the region. "We'd take our brochures and our booths and our pictures and travel to shows in Chicago and Indianapolis and Cincinnati and Detroit and people would come and see where to go on vacation," he said.

Eight years later, Jeanne was diagnosed with lung cancer and, with little treatment available, died August 2, 1983. Nine months later, Westbrook's son Don died after having an allergic reaction to a flu shot. It was a devastating time for Westbrook, who was still working and taking care of Leann.

Though he continued to go to work every day, he admitted he fell into a deep depression. "When a child dies, it pulls something out of you and you're never, ever the same," he said.

Eventually, Westbrook was able to recover, in part with the help of Susan Mitchell, who would later become his wife. "She helped me through the most difficult times of the grieving," he said. "I was certainly not a very pleasant person to be around, and she told me years later I was the saddest person she had ever seen. I was so thankful to have a friend who knew what I was going through. She was my cheerleader."

Together, Susan and Westbrook have a son, Reuben, and though no longer married, remain friends.

After 18 years with the development district, during which he organized the first Tourism Industry Development Symposium in Lexington, Westbrook retired in 1993. In advance of the new millennium, he organized Vision 2000, an effort to define London's goals and aspirations, many of which came to fruition. In 2010, he wrote a cookbook, "Grandma's Heirloom Kentucky and Southern Recipes." He continues to live with Leann, "who babysits her dad," and enjoys seeing his other children, 13 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. He attends St. William Catholic Church. And he remains deeply committed to London and his passion for progress.

At the end of his interview, he outlines ways to think outside the box, drawing several adjacent squares on a sheet of paper and asking how many are actually there. Pointing out how several small boxes form several larger ones, he talks about the importance of expanding one's mind. "You have to be open minded, you can't just be closed to what was. It's exciting. This is the most exciting time in the history of mankind to be alive," he said and puts his pencil down.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SERGEANT MICHAEL E. RISTAU

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I rise to pay tribute to the life and service of SGT Michael E. Ristau, a native of Cascade, IA. He was killed on July 13, 2012 in Qalat, Zabul Province, Afghanistan while serving his country as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. He leaves behind his wife, Elizabeth, two sons, Hyle and Bradley, his parents, Randy and Suzanne, and many other family and friends. My prayers go out to them as they grieve his loss.

By all accounts, he was a brave soldier who was proud of serving his country. He had a long list of awards and decorations, including the Bronze Star and Purple Heart, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, with Oak Leaf Cluster, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, with Bronze Service Star, Iraq Campaign Medal, with two Bronze Service Stars, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, NATO Medal, Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Valorous Unit Award, Meritorious Unit Commendation, and Combat Infantryman Badge.

Our Nation is truly blessed to have patriots like Sergeant Ristau who volunteered to serve their country, prepared to endure the daily sacrifices of a deployment and the horrors of combat, and knowing that they could make the ultimate sacrifice. About his military service, his family said, "Michael had a passion for the military and was going to re-enlist." They also said that "Michael was always looking out for others and helping them in any way possible." There is certainly no more selfless act than to give one's life to ensure that others may live in freedom. We cannot hope to ever fully repay the debt we owe Michael Ristau, but as he joins the illustrious ranks of our fallen patriots from the birth of our Nation to the present day, we have an obligation to honor his life and his sacrifice. We must always remember heroes like Michael Ristau and never take for granted the gift of liberty they have won for us.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING KENNETH SAAVEDRA, JR.

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, for a few minutes, let us recall a young patriot, a military veteran, and a Connecticut son who tragically passed away on July 15, 2012. His name was Kenneth Saavedra, Jr. He was just 29 years old.

Kenneth was born in Bridgeport, CT and lived in Shelton for most of his life. He graduated from Shelton High School and the University of Connecticut. Kenneth was an electrician and worked for Sikorsky Aircraft.

But I speak about Kenneth today because of another job a different distinc-

tion that he held for a number of years: sergeant in the U.S. Army.

Kenneth Saavedra, Jr., served with the Army's 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry Regiment, including two tours of duty in Afghanistan, and served with the National Guard for almost 10 years.

Kenneth was an American patriot. He selflessly dedicated his life to serving his country and never asked what he would receive in return. And after he came home from two tours in Afghanistan, he continued to stay active in veterans' causes as vice chair of the Teamsters Veterans Caucus Connecticut Chapter 1 and an avid supporter of the Wounded Heroes Fund.

This Saturday, Kenneth will be laid to rest in the Connecticut Veterans' Cemetery in Rocky Hill with full military honors. We owe a debt of gratitude to Kenneth Saavedra, Jr., and to military men and women like him who have risked everything to protect our Nation, and served and sacrificed, often at great cost to themselves. We must keep faith with them and make sure that we leave no veteran behind.

I want to offer my sincere condolences to Kenneth's parents, Evelyn and Kenneth Sr., as well as to his many family members and friends who are mourning his loss.●

GARDEN CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA

• Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Madam President, today I wish to pay tribute to the 125th anniversary of the founding of Garden City, SD. Located in northeastern Clark County, Garden City is a proud small town, known for potato farming.

The townsite of Garden City was established in 1882 on 40 acres of land donated by Clarence Hayward, an early resident. Hayward was known as the father of the town because of his steadfast dedication to the well-being and improvement of Garden City. It is said that were it not for his aggressive advocacy, Garden City would not be a town.

The Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad was built in the town in 1887, bringing with it great prosperity. At that time, R.S. Carpenter donated a 40-acre parcel of land located just south of Garden City to the town. His wife is credited with naming the town, an honor granted to her by the railroad workers who were impressed by her hospitality. She had a love of flowers and saw parallels between the townsite and the Garden of Eden.

The year 1887 was important in the early history of Garden City. Besides the establishment of the railroad, 1887 was when the first buildings were constructed. There was a grocery store and hardware business built by William Morise and Charley Edwards, as well as a post office and a railroad depot. In following years, many business and civic organizations popped up to serve the growing population.

In the 20th century, Garden City earned notoriety for being a center of

potato farming in South Dakota. Commercial potato farming first arrived around 1908, and by the 1940s, Garden City farms were yielding half a million bushels of potatoes each year.

Residents of Garden City plan to celebrate their town's 125th anniversary with a day full of activities for the whole family. Festivities will begin with a tractor parade, followed by a pork loin dinner, bean bag and horseshoe tournaments, and musical entertainment, all held in the park. At the Opera House, numerous mementos and antiques will be on display to showcase the rich history of Garden City.

Garden City was founded by a determined group of pioneers, who fought hard for the preservation and advancement of their town. This legacy is evident to this day in the can-do spirit of its residents. I congratulate Garden City on reaching this historic milestone and wish them the best in the future.●

TRIBUTE TO VINCENT J. VACCA

• Mr. TESTER. Madam President, I wish to pay tribute to Vincent J. Vacca, a veteran of the first Gulf War. Vince, on behalf of all Montanans and all Americans, I stand to say thank you for your service to this nation. It is my honor to share the story of Vince Vacca's service in Operation Desert Storm, because no story of heroism should ever fall through the cracks.

Vince was born in New York but grew up in Libby, MT. When he was just a junior in high school, Vince decided to join the Navy headed to boot camp right after he graduated. On his first deployment, he was stationed on the U.S.S. Sylvania as an electrician's mate.

Vince served in Operation Desert Storm from 1990 to 1991. He separated from the Navy in May of 1992 but re-enlisted in the Armed Services, this time in the U.S. Army in December of 1992.

In the Army, Vince graduated third in his class as a fire direction specialist in field artillery. Vince served in the Army until 1999. After his service, Vincent Vacca never received the medals he earned from either the Army or the Navy. Vince recently received his Army medals but couldn't get his Navy medals.

Earlier this month, in the presence of his family, it was my honor to finally present to Vince: the Navy Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal with two bronze stars, and the Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon. I also had the honor of presenting to Vince, the Kuwait Liberation Medal, based in Kuwait, the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon with one bronze star, and the Kuwait Liberation Medal, based in Saudi Arabia.

These seven decorations are small tokens, but they are powerful symbols of true heroism, sacrifice, and dedication to service.

These medals are presented on behalf of a grateful Nation.●